IV to determine conditions of draw down of the investment to TTSL linked to defined milestones to be achieved by TTSL;

V. to play a constructive role in the manner in which TTSL utilizes and applies the investment;

VI. to identify and quantify any additional investment opportunities which are more attractive and submit the same to the Board for its consideration;

VII. such other functions as may be delegated to it by the Board from time to time.

(d) The benefits expected to accrue to Government and the public by the revised proposal are that while VSNL will be able to expand its activity, it would ensure that best possible investment was made that fully protects the interest of the Government.

Payments to cane growers by sugar mills in U.P.

*64. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS. FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh are not making full payment to cane growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS. FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) According to the information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the total cane price dues payable by the sugar mills of the State during the current crushing season 2001-2002 were Rs. 5093.65 crores against which the amount paid was Rs. 4072.48 crores as on 5-7-2002.

(c) The Government of Uttar Pradesh is periodically monitoring the cane price payment position. The State Government has issued directions to the sugar mills that have defaulted in timely cane price payment to expedite cane

price payment to the cane growers. Further, the sugar mills having cane price arrears above 25% have been served show cause notices by the State Government.

The Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1996 has been amended enabling the Central Government/State Governments to recover cane price arrears as arrears of land revenue. The Central Government is also granting advance freesale quotas over and above the normal freesale quotas to the sugar mills to enable them to make payment to the cane growers expeditiously.

Talks between India and China on boundary dispute

*65. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether expert Group of India and China have begun talks on clarification of the Line of Actual Control in Western Sector of Indo-China boundary;

(b) if so, by when these talks are likely to be completed: and

(c) the details of the progress made in the various rounds of talks held in the past ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Discussion on the clarification of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Western Sector of the India-China Boundary began at the 12th Meeting of the India-China Expert Group (EG) of Diplomatic and Military Officials which was held in Beijing on June 17, 2002.

(b) During the visit of External Affairs Minister of China in March/ April 2002, both sides agreed to do their best to complete the exchange of sample maps of the LAC in the Western Sector of the India-China boundary by the end of 2002.

(c) Maps have been exchanged to clarify the LAC in the Middle Sector.